

2013 Exhibition of School Planning and Architecture

Crofton Elementary School

Crofton, Vancouver Island,
British Columbia, Canada

Crofton Elementary



Crofton Elementary



Community Redevelopment



Community Environment

- Situated on the main street of the town, the school is a focal point for the whole community.
- It has helped to redevelop and strengthen this small 'ferry' town, whose papermill economy has not been as strong in the recent past as it was earlier.
- Sloped roofs and a low profile at the street front relates well to the surrounding residences.

Celebrating an Island Community

Community Environment

The school serves as the centre of this small island community.

It is the most prominent building in the town; most gatherings, events, and meetings are now held at the school.

The school is sited on the main street, connecting the students to their community, it is built into the grade so that two levels of classrooms look out over the playfield and have ocean views.



Unique Learning Opportunities



Learning Environment

Appropriately scaled kindergarten classroom with playful, sloped operable and vision windows.

Discovery and Exploration in the Library

Learning Environment

The library, shown here, is a bright and inspiring setting with abundant natural light; interior glazing visually connects the space to the circulation atrium.

Students are encouraged to pursue their own learning style, through child-scaled bookstacks, group settings, technical computer carousals, and smaller reading nooks that project from the exterior envelope to frame specific views.



Inspirational Heights

Physical Environment

Aesthetically inspiring interior spaces provide a variety of experiences with ocean-themed floor patterns, clerestory operable windows providing natural light and ventilation – warm air rises through stack effect.

The exposed roof structure provides rhythm and visual interest, while circular windows further nautical themes.



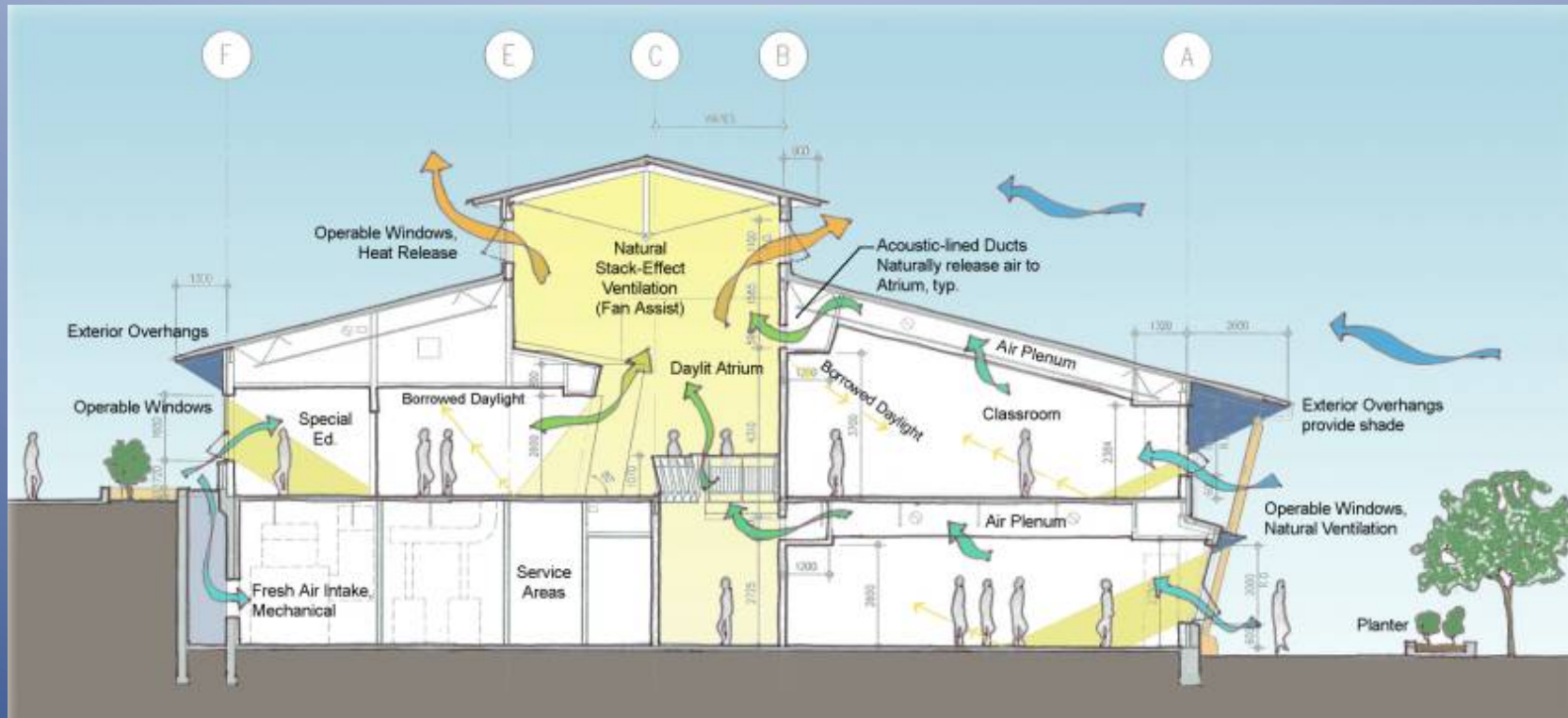
Intriguing spaces and experiences



Physical Environment

The geometry of the common spaces - including child-scaled elements such as sitting steps under the staircase, low round windows for peeking into the library, and colourful floor patterns - help to create a unique and positive experience for both pupils and the public.

Sustainable Goals and Planning



Planning Process

The design for this minimum size elementary school for 100 pupils illustrates how sustainable initiatives can be incorporated in a small project with a modest budget. Note the features shown in the building section above.

The Planning Team consisted of : The Ministry of Education, local school board representatives, teachers and principal of the former school. There were also several public open houses and hearings during the planning process.

Siting Sketch with Program Elements

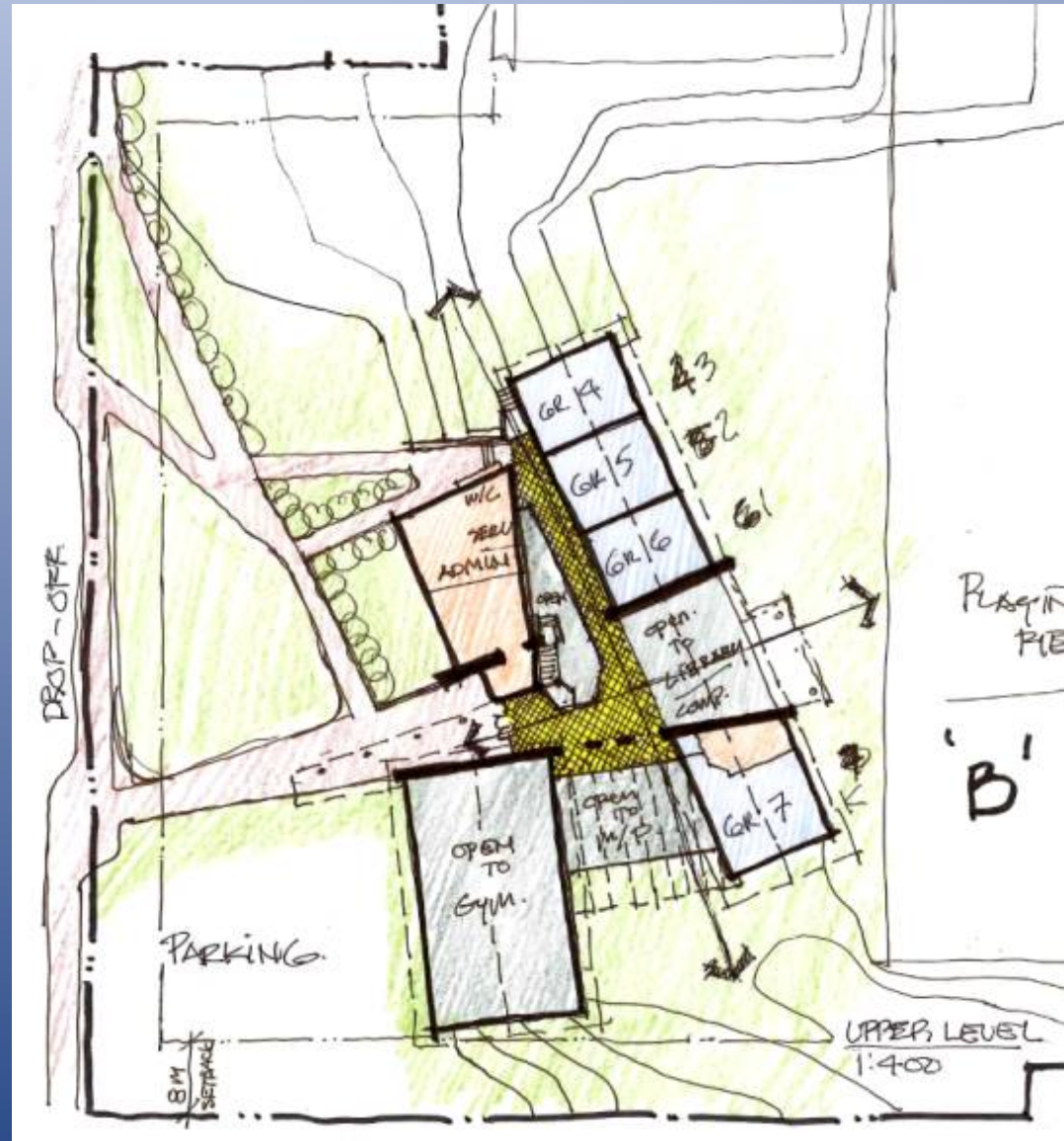
Planning Process

The architects and the Planning Team continued to meet during the design development, construction, and post-occupancy phases for a timeline of 28 months, to ensure that the project was meeting its Visions and Goals.

Total cost of the project, all inclusive, was \$7.8 million; this reflects a lower cost than original pricing budget.

The project was completed on time as scheduled.

Right: Early planning sketch showing the main circulation areas and site orientation for the school.



Lower Floor Plan



Main Floor Plan



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Project Data

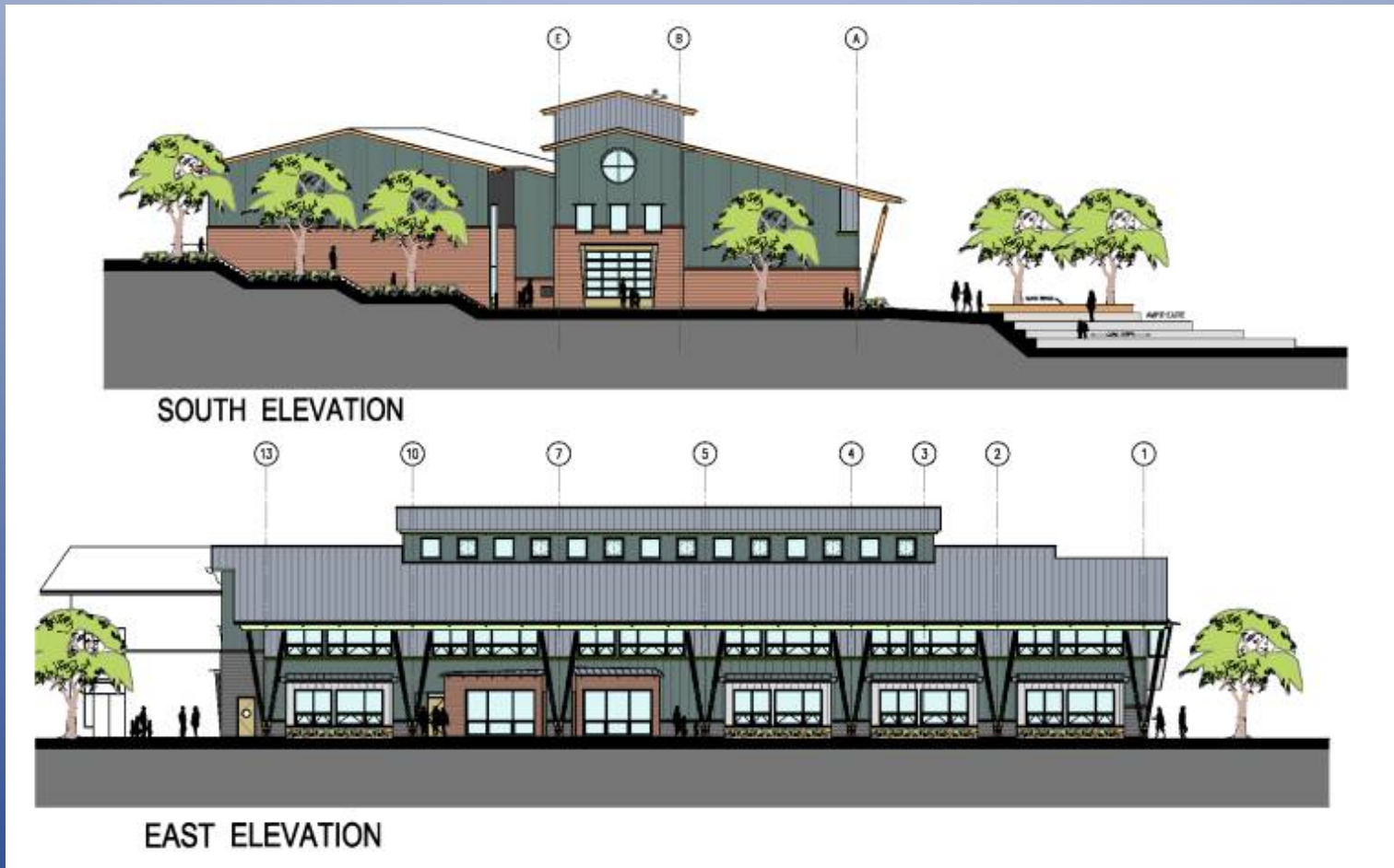
Submitting Firm :	Grant + Sinclair Architects Ltd.
Project Role	Architect
Project Contact	Autumn Sweet, Architect AIBC; Lori Kessler Gratl, Architect AIBC
Title	Project Architect
Address	1000 – 1500 West Georgia Street
City, State or Province, Country	Vancouver, B.C., V6G 2Z6 Canada
Phone	604-681-9191
Joint Partner Firm:	N/A
Project Role	
Project Contact	
Title	
Address	
City, State or Province, Country	
Phone	
Other Firm:	Herald Engineering
Project Role	Structural Engineer
Project Contact	Mike Herald, P. Eng., Struct. Eng.
Title	Engineer of Record
Address	3701 Shenton Road
City, State or Province, Country	Nanaimo, B.C. V9T2H1 Canada
Phone	250-751-8558
Construction Firm:	Knappet Projects Inc.
Project Role	General Contractor
Project Contact	John Knappet
Title	General Contractor
Address	555 Pembroke Street
City, State or Province, Country	Victoria, BC V8T 1H3 Canada
Phone	250-475-6333

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Project Details

Project Name	Crofton Elementary School
City	Crofton
State	British Columbia
District Name	School District #79 (Cowichan Valley)
Supt/President	Phil Turin
Occupancy Date	Fall 2009
Grades Housed	K-7
Capacity(Students)	100
Site Size (acres)	4.06 acres (16,423 sm)
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	21,205 sf (1,970 sm)
Per Occupant(pupil)	202 sf/ pupil
gross/net please indicate	
Design and Build?	Yes: Design, Bid , Build
If yes, Total Cost:	\$7.8 M
Includes:	All inclusive
If no,	
Site Development:	
Building Construction:	
Fixed Equipment:	
Other:	
Total:	\$7.8 M

Coloured Elevations



Design Development elevations show a rich composition and colour scheme.

The school is built into the sloping grade, with classrooms and library views to the playfield and ocean beyond. The south elevation features a solar wall at the gymnasium.

Aesthetics and Climate Response

Physical Environment

The south face of the double-height multipurpose space features:

- simple and visually appealing geometry
- a translucent glazed operable garage door to the exterior
- durable and complimentary materials
- shading and overhangs to protect against excessive solar heat gain



Connected and successful Spaces for learning

Learning Environment

Colourful, fish-themed floor patterns and attractive, durable, multi-use storage and support millwork create fresh & appealing elements in the classrooms.

Students stay connected to their surroundings through direct views to the ocean and islands beyond.



Inspiration and Play

Physical Environment

Orca and starfish floor patterns are a fun way to connect the students to their ocean neighbours with a “learning anytime, anywhere” philosophy.

Interior wood paneling provides a warm, natural, and very durable finish.

Sloped walls and a thoughtful combination of shapes and colours combine to create a unique and joyous atmosphere.

Natural daylight filters in from the clerestory windows above, and from view windows at the ends of the atrium.



Relation to site and the greater environment

Physical & Community Environment

Overhangs protect from solar heat gain, view windows look out towards the ocean, shape combinations provide interest and intrigue to the exterior of the school.

The sloped roofs and the single-storey street front aesthetic create a complimentary style to the surrounding residential nature of the town, while upholding a sense of prominence for this center point of the community.

